

in Christ Jesus. Deeply spiritual, intensely practical and true to his profession, he gradually won the hearts of the Gentile world. To the Apostle Paul, Christianity owes its possession of a world wide destiny. All this was done, however, in accordance with Christ and under His direction, but let us not forget that it was accomplished thru the instrumentality of Paul. For us to fully realize what this means let us thoroughly consecrate our lives to Him and experience the change that would necessarily be wrought within us. For us to appreciate the value of this life and to comprehend its meaning we must all be drawn into a closer and more sacred nearness to our Heavenly Father.

That we, who have made a good profession, may now make our profession good I prayerfully ask you to emulate the example of the Apostle Paul.

E. D. BURNWORTH.

Ashland, O.

Saint John

John—the disciple whom Jesus loved. A happy faculty is that of appreciation of a splendid life. The world might be infinitely richer could she but appreciate the noble souls which have existed, and lay hold upon the lofty ideals for which they struggled. In the New Testament especially do we find characters to whom we owe much—characters which rose far above the low plain of self, and lived and suffered with as sublime motives as could find place in the human heart. And since it is our privilege to talk of a favorite New Testament character, let us consider the beloved disciple John. Not, however, that we are less indebted to other New Testament individuals than John, nor that others were less influential than he, but because of his loving and lovable disposition and the relation he sustained to the blessed Christ.

We are not drawn to this kindly saint by his superior power of reason or argument, but we admire and love him because in him we find a soul throbbing with holy love, and a life bearing a vivid impress of the Christ of God. Not a cold philosopher, but a man of divine simplicity and a child like faith in his Lord and Master. But inasmuch as simplicity shone out with exceeding brightness in Christ, we are not surprised to see the same beautiful attribute in the disciple whom Jesus loved. Simple and teachable at the feet of his great teacher, simple in his mature life, and especially simple in his writing.

Thus we find in John the ideal pupil. He loved his teacher with all his powerful capacity of love. Having perfect confidence in his Master, he believed what his Master taught; being, therefore, teachable, submissive. He was eager to learn; always nearest the Master in the temple or synagogue, nearest Him while preaching from a mountain side or boat, at all times we see this lovely character cleaving to the Christ with tireless devotion.

It naturally follows, therefore, that to John should come any special revelation that

might chance to be made. Not that Christ is partial, but first, that John is always present, and secondly, that he is among the best qualified disciples, to receive and comprehend the plans of the Master. Thus John is among the chosen three who witnessed the raising of the daughter of Jairus; he is among the three at the Transfiguration; he is among the nearest to his agonizing Lord in Gethsemane. But it is not until the Master is crucified and dying that we get a pulpit view of the real love and devotion of the Apostle John. When all others had fled, the words came from Jesus to this faithful disciple "Behold thy mother."

We said, John loved his Master. The Master was the perfection of love and He also loved John. Thus a very tender relation sprung up between the two which ever grew stronger, and thru which Christ imparted the very essence of divine grace and beauty to this disciple. John knew his Lord better than the other disciples knew Him, because he possessed more of Christ. He possessed more of Christ because the Christ nature found lodgment in most fertile soil in John.

We find in Saint John, therefore, a man splendidly qualified to write a gospel of Christ. He knew Christ, and was most like Christ. That is why he is able to draw aside the curtain and give us a perfect vision of the Christ, betraying the love, beauty, simplicity, sublimity of Christ, as no other has done.

Do we not love and admire this Saint? Would we live such a life? Let us permit the beloved Saint to lead us to his blessed Master. For that same Master who is now the exalted Christ, will implant that same love and beauty in our hearts. Let us love the Christ supremely and the transformation will certainly take place.

WM. H. BEACHLER.

Ashland, Ohio.

Saint Paul

In that strong web of noble characters woven in the New Testament, it is difficult to pick out the favorite thread of character. Jesus occupies the central place and to him each thread is fastened with the cord of love. What a biography of Mary is woven in the words of the Master: "She hath done what she could." How we all love the "Apostle of Love" who was the strongest thread of the twelve, was noblest and yet tenderest, most loving and yet most daring; who was nearest to the Master, even at Calvary when Jesus said unto him: "Behold thy mother." But the strongest thread, as we study them and seek to be strengthened by each one, is Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

Paul was thoroughly converted. He turned face about and with vehemence and zeal and intensity trod the path of duty which was often rough with terrors and sorrows. Even tho the path was often dark, it was then that the promises of God shone the brightest, like the stars in the firmament

at night. He found the path strewn with flowers of joy by bravely doing the will of the Father. Stars and promises above, flowers and joy beneath.

Paul was strength in weakness. Dark nights came to him, but if it were always day, we should not know that the heavens are so full of beauty. Elijah Brown said: "Character is what a man is in the dark." In the darkest nights of Paul's life, his heart was always warm with the sunshine of heavenly love. Tho physically weak, he was a mighty man of God in faith and love and works. He said in one letter: "I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong. Weak in the flesh, but strong in the spirit."

Paul could say: "For me to live is Christ." What a wonderful transformation this old earth of ours would undergo and how the coming of God's kingdom in all its fulness would be hastened if tomorrow and henceforth for every professed Christian to live would mean *Christ*. To those under his care, Paul, filled with love and with Christ dwelling in him, could say: "Be ye imitators of me." Christ within, a life of love and service without, a Bible which the world may well read.

Paul was victorious. Walking thru the dark valley of the shadow of death was to Paul the bright and shining noon-day of his life, the consummation of a well fought battle. Christ was ever his strength and love was ever his spur. Love drew him nearer and nearer unto the fulness of manhood in Christ Jesus. Victory was promised and victory came. 'Ere he suffered martyrdom, from the depths of a glowing consciousness of having lived the Christ-life, came these words which only a true Christian can speak: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day: and not only to me, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." The cross below, the crown above; persecutions here, sweet peace there.

GEO. C. CARPENTER.

South Bend, Ind.

Saint John

Among that illustrious company of noble, zealous followers of the Master Jesus, the one character that has always appealed to me more strongly than the rest, is that lovable, saintly, peerless, Christ like disciple, John the beloved Apostle. He was one of the sons of Zebedee and a Galilean fisherman. In but few scenes in the gospel story does this apostle of love play a conspicuous part but he is prominent enough to stamp indelibly on our hearts and minds the impress of the strength and tenderness of his personality.

Why is John my favorite New Testament character? I scarcely know whether it is